

September 27, 2011

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood U.S. Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Ave, SE Washington DC 20590

Secretary LaHood,

I urge your support of the Commonwealth of Kentucky's application for TIGER III grant money to further the opening of a large section of Interstate 69 in western Kentucky.

We are fortunate that Kentucky built an extensive system of four-lane, limited access parkways in the 1960s and 1970s. Much of the Purchase, Western Kentucky and Pennyrile parkways will be upgraded to become I-69. With a TIGER III grant, KYTC hopes to upgrade 27 miles of the Julian Carroll-Purchase Parkway from I-24 to US 45 in Mayfield to I-69 status.

Upgrading Kentucky's parkways is a bargain for the US DOT. They were built with very little federal money and are part of the federal highway system. A small investment from the TIGER III grant would allow for the necessary safety and operational improvements to shield much of SIU6. This maximizing of the existing system represents a significant savings for tax payers.

KYTC and FHWA recently reached agreement to shield 38 miles of the Western Kentucky Parkway as I-69 this fall. Opening another 27 miles with the TIGER III grant would be more significant progress for this important economic development project.

I thank you for the US DOT's full consideration of Kentucky's TIGER III application for Interstate 69.

Sincerely,

Sheldon L. Booze

CEO

Copies:

Governor Steve Beshear Senator Mitch McConnell Congressman Ed Whitfield

